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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/661,504	09/15/2003	Takaaki Sugiyama	117140	7408

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EXAMINER	
CHEN, QING	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2191	

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/661,504	SUGIYAMA, TAKAAKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Qing Chen	2191	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 September 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *30 January 2004* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *20030915*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is the initial Office action based on the application filed on September 15, 2003 and the preliminary amendments to the drawings filed on January 30, 2004. **Claims 1-10** are currently pending and have been considered below.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on January 30, 2004. These drawings are not acceptable because:

- The drawings are not in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.121(d). Any changes to an application drawing must be in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.84 and must be submitted on a replacement sheet of drawings, which shall be an attachment to the amendment document and, in the top margin, labeled "Replacement Sheet."

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description:

- Reference number 1A in pages 33 and 34.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.

Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is

to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the Examiner, the Applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it does not define what the terminology "I/F" means. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- The specification contains the following typographical errors:
  - Reference number 30 should be deleted in the description for Figure 18 in page 6.
  - The letter "f" in the terminology "<flow>" should be changed to uppercase in page 13 in order to keep the terminology consistent throughout the specification.
- The specification does not explain what the acronyms WebUI, HTML, and XML stand for.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

6. **Claim 8** is objected to because of the following informalities:

- **Claim 8** contains a typographical error: "the plural acquired services" should presumably read -- the acquired plural services --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. **Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Cheyer et al. (US 6,851,115)**.

As per **Claim 1**, Cheyer et al. disclose:

- a service acquisition unit that acquires plural services available to a user by using user information *(see Figure 4: 402; Figure 6: 448; Column 6: 10-13, "The facilitator agent interprets these requests ..."; Column 7: 58-63, "A user interface ... is responsible for accepting user input, sending requests to the facilitator ...")*; and

- a cooperation instruction information creation unit that creates the cooperation instruction information by using the plural services acquired by the service acquisition unit *(see Figure 4: 402 and 418; Figure 11; Column 7: 24-29, "... when a facilitator determines that the registered services of one of its client agents will help satisfy a goal, the facilitator sends that client a request expressed in the Interagent Communication Language (ICL).")*.

As per **Claim 2**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; and Cheyer et al. further disclose:

- a retrieval unit that retrieves a service, wherein the service acquisition unit transmits user information and makes a retrieval request for a service available to the user to the retrieval unit, and acquires plural services available to the user in response to the retrieval request *(see Figure 4: 404; Column 7: 24-38, "... the facilitator sends that client a request ... The agent parses this request, processes it, and returns answers or status reports to the facilitator. In processing a request, the client agent can make use of a variety of infrastructure capabilities provided ...")*.

As per **Claim 5**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; and Cheyer et al. further disclose:

- wherein the service acquisition unit acquires a service available to the user for each of functions constituting a job flow *(see Column 14: 43-48, "... a client agent (or a user) to submit compound goals of an arbitrarily complex nature to a facilitator. A compound goal is a single goal expression that specifies multiple sub-goals to be performed.")*.

As per **Claim 6**, the rejection of **Claim 5** is incorporated; and Cheyer et al. further disclose:

- wherein the service acquisition unit acquires a service having minimum restrictions for each of the functions constituting the job flow, and the cooperation instruction information creation unit creates the cooperation instruction information by associating the respective services acquired by the service acquisition unit with the respective functions constituting the job flow *(see Column 15: 49-58, "... parameters associated with a goal (or sub-goal) can draw on useful features to refine the request's meaning. For example, it is frequently preferred to be able to specify whether or not solutions are to be returned synchronously ... As another example, when the goal is a non-compound query of a data solvable, the cache parameter may preferably be used to request local caching of the facts associated with that solvable."; Column 16: 39-43, "... when a facilitator receives a compound goal, its job is to construct a goal satisfaction plan and oversee its satisfaction in an optimal or near optimal manner that is consistent with the specified advice.").*

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. **Claims 3, 4, and 7-10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Cheyer et al. (US 6,851,115)** in view of **Bapat et al. (US 6,038,563)**.

As per **Claim 3**, the rejection of **Claim 2** is incorporated; however, Cheyer et al. do not disclose:

- wherein when the retrieval request is issued from the service acquisition unit, the retrieval unit checks the user information against a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of the service stored in a service processing device, and retrieves plural services available to the user.

Bapat et al. disclose wherein when the retrieval request is issued from the service acquisition unit, the retrieval unit checks the user information against a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of the service stored in a service processing device, and retrieves plural services available to the user *(see Column 3: 17-24 and 36-45, "A user access request to access management information in the database is intercepted ..." and "A database access engine accesses information in the set of database tables using the permissions table such*

that each user is allowed access only to management information in the set of database tables that the user would be allowed by the access control database to access.").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Bapat et al. into the teaching of Cheyer et al. to include wherein when the retrieval request is issued from the service acquisition unit, the retrieval unit checks the user information against a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of the service stored in a service processing device, and retrieves plural services available to the user. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing the management information objects in a network *(see Bapat et al. – Column 1: 66-67; Column 2: 1-3).*

As per **Claim 4**, the rejection of **Claim 1** is incorporated; however, Cheyer et al. do not disclose:

- an inquiry unit that inquires of respective service processing devices each storing a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of services, by transmitting user information, as to whether the user can use the services of the respective service processing devices, wherein the service acquisition unit acquires the plural services on the basis of an inquiry result of the inquiry unit.

Bapat et al. disclose an inquiry unit that inquires of respective service processing devices each storing a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of services, by transmitting user information, as to whether the user can use the services of the respective service processing devices, wherein the service acquisition unit acquires the plural services on

the basis of an inquiry result of the inquiry unit *(see Column 3: 17-24 and 36-45, "An access control database has access control objects that collectively store information that specifies access rights by users to specified sets of the managed objects. The specified access rights include access rights to obtain management information from the network. An access control server provides users access to the managed objects in accordance with the access rights specified by the access control database.").*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Bapat et al. into the teaching of Cheyer et al. to include an inquiry unit that inquires of respective service processing devices each storing a restriction value table expressing restrictions on execution of services, by transmitting user information, as to whether the user can use the services of the respective service processing devices, wherein the service acquisition unit acquires the plural services on the basis of an inquiry result of the inquiry unit. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing the management information objects in a network *(see Bapat et al. – Column 1: 66-67; Column 2: 1-3).*

As per **Claim 7**, Cheyer et al. disclose:

- creating cooperation instruction information by using the acquired plural services *(see Figure 4: 402 and 418; Figure 11; Column 7: 24-29, "... when a facilitator determines that the registered services of one of its client agents will help satisfy a goal, the facilitator sends that client a request expressed in the Interagent Communication Language (ICL).").*

However, Cheyer et al. do not disclose:

- acquiring plural services available to a user by checking user information against respective restriction value tables expressing restrictions on execution of the respective services.

Bapat et al. disclose acquiring plural services available to a user by checking user information against respective restriction value tables expressing restrictions on execution of the respective services *(see Column 3: 17-24 and 36-45, "A user access request to access management information in the database is intercepted ..." and "A database access engine accesses information in the set of database tables using the permissions table such that each user is allowed access only to management information in the set of database tables that the user would be allowed by the access control database to access.")*.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Bapat et al. into the teaching of Cheyer et al. to include acquiring plural services available to a user by checking user information against respective restriction value tables expressing restrictions on execution of the respective services. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing the management information objects in a network *(see Bapat et al. – Column 1: 66-67; Column 2: 1-3)*.

As per **Claim 8**, the rejection of **Claim 7** is incorporated; and Cheyer et al. further disclose:

- wherein in the cooperation instruction information creation step, services constituting a job flow are selected from the acquired plural services, and the cooperation instruction

information is created by using the selected services *(see Column 16: 39-43, "... when a facilitator receives a compound goal, its job is to construct a goal satisfaction plan and oversee its satisfaction in an optimal or near optimal manner that is consistent with the specified advice.")*.

As per **Claim 9**, the rejection of **Claim 7** is incorporated; and Cheyer et al. further disclose:

- wherein in the service acquisition step, the service available to the user is acquired for each of functions constituting a job flow *(see Column 14: 43-48, "... a client agent (or a user) to submit compound goals of an arbitrarily complex nature to a facilitator. A compound goal is a single goal expression that specifies multiple sub-goals to be performed.")*.

As per **Claim 10**, the rejection of **Claim 9** is incorporated; and Cheyer et al. further disclose:

- wherein in the service acquisition step, a service having minimum restrictions is acquired for each of the functions constituting the job flow *(see Column 15: 49-58, "... parameters associated with a goal (or sub-goal) can draw on useful features to refine the request's meaning. For example, it is frequently preferred to be able to specify whether or not solutions are to be returned synchronously ... As another example, when the goal is a non-compound query of a data solvable, the cache parameter may preferably be used to request local caching of the facts associated with that solvable.")*.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

A. **Nazif et al. (US 5,481,601)** disclose a system for creating, transferring, and monitoring services in a telecommunication system includes a service creation and management application and a service execution application.

B. **Waters et al. (US 5,907,607)** disclose service creation apparatus for a communications network, and finds particular application in intelligent networks.

C. **Ekanadham et al. (US 5,978,583)** disclose a system and method for dynamic scheduling and allocation of resources to parallel applications during the course of their execution.

D. **Polcyn (US 6,173,437)** discloses a computer-based application development environment that supports device-independent call flow scripting.

E. **Dugan et al. (US 6,363,411)** disclose an Intelligent Network architecture including a novel central administration and resource management system for administering and tracking service resources to a plurality of service nodes capable of telecommunications service processing.

F. **Deo et al. (US 6,594,355)** disclose a methodology for performing services in response to service requests received at a switch associated with an intelligent communications network.

G. **Bengston (US 6,728,947)** discloses a system and apparatus for automatically executing process steps by processing devices transmitted, over a communication channel, using a workflow file to specify the process steps.

H. **Beniyama (US 6,799,314)** discloses a workflow management method for managing execution of a plurality of works in a business process based on process definition information for defining the plurality of works and a processing order of the works.

I. **Penders (US 6,892,228)** discloses a platform, which allows a user of a service for a device to create, activate, and execute the service.

J. **Nørgaard et al. (US 6,895,573)** disclose a method of generating a workflow on a computer for guiding a user through a sequence of activities.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Qing Chen whose telephone number is 571-270-1071. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The Examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen, can be reached on 571-272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

WEI ZHEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

QC / QC
October 23, 2006